



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Chlamydia trachomatis infection is the most common sexually transmitted disease (STD) in the United States with more than four million new infections each year. Up to three out of four chlamydial infections in women are asymptomatic. Asymptomatic chlamydial infections in women are only detected through screening programs. Undiagnosed infections can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancy, and tubal infertility. The highest rates of chlamydial infection are in young women under 25 years of age. Other risk factors associated with chlamydia are multiple partners, a new partner in the past month, lack of condom use, and previous history of chlamydia or other STD.

The California Women's Health Survey asked women age 18-44 years, **"Have you ever heard of chlamydia?"**

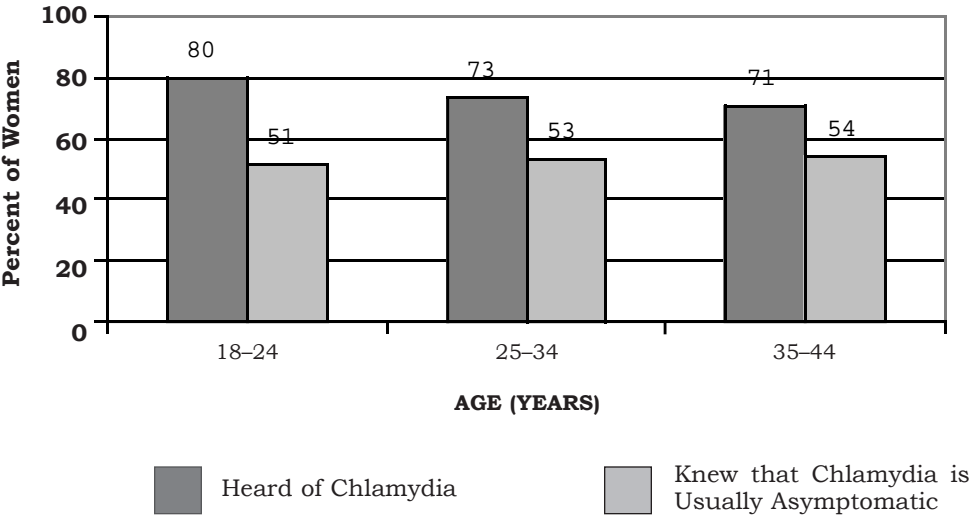
These women were also asked whether the following statement was true: **"Women with chlamydia have symptoms."**

- Overall, 73% of women reported having heard of chlamydia infection, but only 52% knew that women with chlamydia infection do not usually experience symptoms.
- Knowledge of chlamydia was associated with education level: 18% of women with less than a ninth grade education versus 80% of women with college-level education said they had heard of chlamydia.
- Only 56% of Hispanic women age 18-24 have heard of chlamydia versus over 90% of other racial/ethnic groups in this high-risk age group.

KNOWLEDGE ABOUT CHLAMYDIA

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch

Chlamydia Knowledge Among Women, By Age; California, 1997



Public Health Message:

There is a clear need to expand knowledge regarding chlamydia infections and the importance of being regularly screened since the majority of infected women have no symptoms.

Issue 1, Number 5, Fall 1999
Second Printing